



City news,  
features,  
and  
updates

# This Week in Huntsville

August 17,  
2016

## Huntsville Bond Election 2016

On August 16, the Huntsville City Council voted to call a bond election containing three propositions. Huntsville residents will be asked to go the polls Tuesday, November 8, to consider authorizing the issuance of general obligation bonds for the three project groups under consideration. They are to fund improvements to the City Public Safety Facilities, City Services Facilities and City Waterworks and Sewer System Facilities. Each of these has been studied with the purpose of increasing safety, improving service, and accommodating current and future growth

The Council has worked closely with the staff over the past few years on in-depth studies on each proposition. Experts in each field assessed infrastructure conditions and evaluated longevity for maintenance and expansion. The Council Finance Committee and Long Range Planning Ad Hoc Committee began review of reports and then studied all presentations with the full Council.

Their aim was to be fully knowledgeable on each issue and make the most educated decision on which propositions to present to the voters this November. Based on recommendations of the City's financial advisors and bond council, it is believed that all three propositions can be accomplished with no increases in taxes or utility rates related to them.

To reach your City Council to learn more, email the full Council at [council@huntsvilletx.gov](mailto:council@huntsvilletx.gov), or find individual member email addresses at <http://huntsvilletx.gov/Council>. To learn more about each proposition before you make your decision on November 8, please, call 936-291-5403, or email [bond@huntsvilletx.gov](mailto:bond@huntsvilletx.gov).



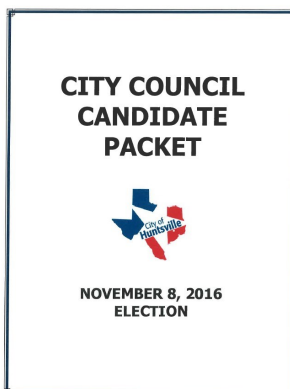
City of Huntsville  
*Security Growth Service*

## Candidate Filing Open Until August 22

The City Council seats for At-large Positions 1-4 will be on the November 8, 2016 General Election ballot. Filing for the positions runs through 5 p.m. on August 22. Interested candidates may file from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. in the office of the City Secretary (City Hall, 1212 Avenue M).

A drawing to determine the order in which the names of candidates are to be printed on the ballot will be held on August 24 at 8 a.m., at City Hall, 1212 Avenue M, in the large conference room.

Candidate packets for the 2016 City of Huntsville General Election are available through the office of the City Secretary or at <http://www.huntsvilletx.gov/Elections>.



The City of Huntsville application fee is one dollar in cash, per City Charter mandate. City Secretary Lee Woodward acknowledged members of the public may have questions about the responsibilities of Councilmembers.

"The City Secretary's office provides the candidate packets, which include general information, a brief of the state election calendar, and references for guidelines and statutes," Woodward said. "Anyone is welcome to learn more about the duties of Councilmembers and how the election process is conducted, even if they have no desire to run for office. The steps to becoming and the obligations of an elected Councilmember are many and varied."

For more information, email [citysecretary@huntsvilletx.gov](mailto:citysecretary@huntsvilletx.gov), call 936-291-5403, or visit <http://www.huntsvilletx.gov/Elections>.

# Register to Vote!

**The last day to register to vote for the November 8 election is October 11.** Make sure you get your registration in on time to cast your vote in the November election!

Visit <http://www.co.walker.tx.us/departments/?fDD=24-0> to learn how to register to vote in Walker County. A voter's application must be submitted or mailed at least 30 days before an election date to vote in that election.

Remember to ***Vote the Back*** on this November's ballot to have your voice heard in the 2016 City of Huntsville General and Bond Elections!



This year's closing date for the pool at the Frank D. "Poncho" Roberts Aquatic Center is **August 21**. Get to splashing and beat the heat before the summer is gone! For information on the Aquatic Center visit <http://huntsvilletx.gov/265/Aquatic-Programs-Fees>.

## School's Back in Session!

HPD asks all citizens to be mindful of increased vehicular and pedestrian traffic this time of year. Lieutenant Jim Barnes said drivers should review the locations of school zones on their daily travel routes, as well as the speed limits in effect during drop-off and pick-up hours.

"Local campuses will be back in session, and there will be a lot more traffic and kids to consider," Barnes said. "We're encouraging all citizens to be aware, plan accordingly when driving within the city, and be patient and cognizant of your surroundings."

Barnes said drivers on Sam Houston Avenue and 11th Street should be ready for an influx of university student drivers who are unfamiliar with the Huntsville area.

"We're asking that drivers remember many incoming freshmen may be driving in Huntsville for the first time," Barnes said. "Again, please be patient, but if there is a situation which you feel may require law enforcement attention, make us aware of it."

***Please be alert to the recently converted traffic patterns on Bobby K Marks Drive and Bearkat Boulevard which are now one way traffic with additional paid parking spaces along the two street segments.***

Citizens are reminded that the use of cell phones in school zones when active is against City ordinance and punishable by a fine not to exceed \$200. This regulation applies to both calling and texting, and the same fine applies to speeding in school zones.

For more information or with any questions, contact Barnes at (936) 291-5496.



### School zone speed limits

**Huntsville High School:** FM 2821 - 7:30 a.m. to 8:00 a.m./3:15 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. - 35 miles per hour

**Huntsville Intermediate & Scott Johnson Elementary:** US 190 - 7:30 a.m. to 8:05 a.m./3:15 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. - 30 mph

**All five elementary campuses:** 7:30 a.m. to 8:30 a.m./2:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. - 20 mph

**Huntsville Elementary:** 87 Martin Luther King Drive

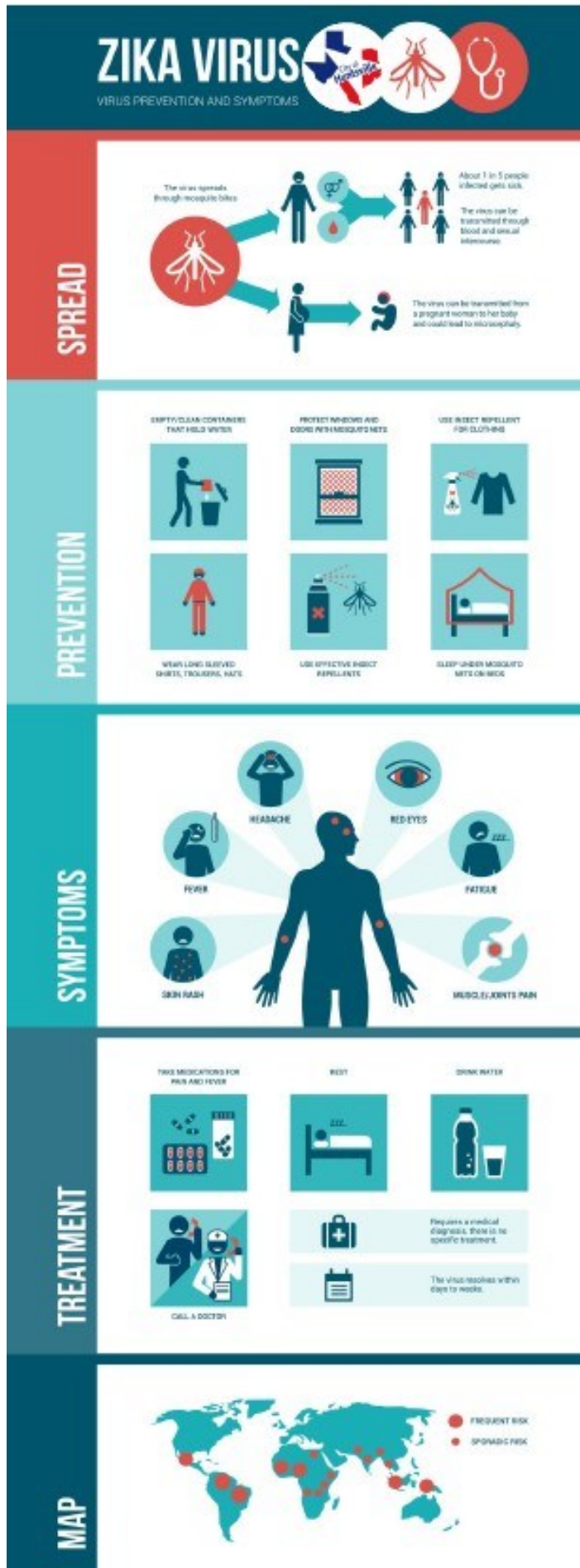
**Gibbs Elementary:** 19<sup>th</sup> Street

**Stewart Elementary:** 3400 Boettcher

**Sam Houston Elementary:** 1600 7<sup>th</sup> St.

**Mance Park Middle School:** 8<sup>th</sup> Street

# Don't Give Zika a Biting Chance!



The long summer days and intermittent showers may present an increased opportunity for exposure to mosquito bites. Citizens are urged to take precautions to decrease the likelihood of contracting disease from infectious insects.

Like the Texas Governor's office, the City of Huntsville is sharing guidelines from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and [www.TexasZika.org](http://www.TexasZika.org) (through the Texas Department of State Health Services) to encourage residents to practice mosquito bite prevention from infectious insects possibly carrying the Zika virus.

Watch the video at [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WynsLB\\_h6q0](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WynsLB_h6q0) to hear Governor Greg Abbott address the issue and see how Texas is handling the situation. Be sure to watch the whole video to see a guest appearance by Pancake, the First Dog of Texas, who helps illustrate mosquito bite prevention and protection tips.

Learn more about ways to protect yourself and your family from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) website at <http://www.cdc.gov/zika/prevention/prevent-mosquito-bites.html>. For more information, there are additional links available on the City web site at [www.huntsvilletx.gov/ReadyHuntsville](http://www.huntsvilletx.gov/ReadyHuntsville).

Currently, there is no vaccine or treatment for the Zika virus. Your best protection to avoid infection is to prevent mosquito breeding and protect yourself from mosquito bites.

## Prevent Mosquito Breeding

- At least weekly empty or get rid of cans, buckets, old tires, pots, plant saucers and other containers that hold water.
- Keep gutters clear of debris and standing water.
- Remove standing water around structures and from flat roofs.
- Change water in pet dishes daily.
- Rinse and scrub vases and other indoor water containers weekly.
- Change water in wading pools and bird baths several times a week.
- Maintain backyard pools or hot tubs.
- Cover trash containers.
- Water lawns and gardens carefully so water does not stand for several days.
- Screen rain barrels and openings to water tanks or cisterns.
- Treat front and back door areas of homes with residual insecticides if mosquitoes are abundant nearby.
- If mosquito problems persist, consider pesticide applications for vegetation around the home.

## Protect Yourself from Mosquito Bites

- Wear Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)-registered insect repellents. When used as directed, these insect repellents – including those that contain DEET – are proven safe and effective even for pregnant and breastfeeding women. Mosquito repellent is now available as a Medicaid benefit.
- Cover up with long-sleeved shirts and long pants.
- Keep mosquitoes out with air conditioning or intact window screens.
- Limit outdoor activities during peak mosquito times.

People who are traveling to areas where Zika is being spread should protect themselves from mosquito bites while abroad and for 21 days after returning home to help prevent themselves from becoming infected, and to keep from spreading the virus to mosquitoes in Texas in the event the travelers were exposed to Zika.

Information from [www.Texaszika.org](http://www.Texaszika.org).



## Labor Day Solid Waste & Recycling

The City of Huntsville Solid Waste Services Division will run normal residential and commercial garbage pick-up routes on Monday, September 5, 2016, Labor Day.

The Solid Waste Transfer Facility will also be open for business on Monday, from 7:30 am to 5:00 pm.

The Recycling Drop-Off Center, located at 590 IH-45 North, will be open to the public on Monday, but no attendant will be on site.

If you have any questions about the garbage collection, the Solid Waste Transfer Facility, or the Recycling Drop-Off Center, please call the Solid Waste Division at 936-294-5712.

## City's ISO Rating Improved

At the July 19, 2016 City Council meeting, Director of Public Safety Police Chief Kevin Lunsford and Fire Chief Tom Grisham shared information on the City's updated ISO rating. Huntsville's Public Protection Classification rating has been improved to a 2 from a previous 3.

Established in 1971, the ratings are a system of the for-profit Insurance Service Office organization, and range from 10-1. The City's Fire Department has worked hard to improve the area's rating through staffing, training, and equipment purchases and maintenance.

Contact Chief Grisham at 936-291-5941 or visit <http://huntsvilletx.gov/568/ISO-Information> to download the corresponding documents to present to your insurance company to discuss a possible reduction in rates.

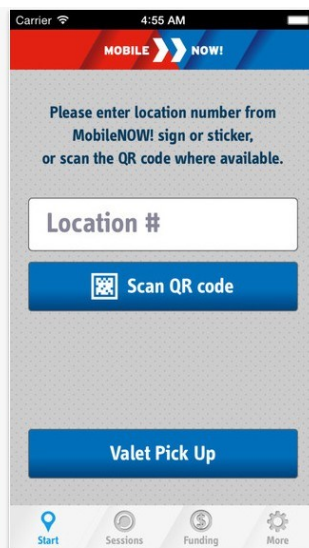
Be sure to thank a Huntsville firefighter for all they do to protect and improve the City's quality of life!

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## MobileNOW! Paid Parking System is Live

The conversion of Bobby K. Marks Drive and Bearkat Boulevard to one-way traffic has been completed and the traffic patterns have changed. Over 200 paid parking spaces have been installed along the two street segments.

The MobileNOW! System went live Monday, August 8, at 7 a.m. The spaces now must be paid for using the mobile app or the call in number to avoid receiving a citation from the Huntsville Police Department .



The new parking spaces are controlled through a pay-by-space on-street parking system. Drivers are able to pay for parking quickly and easily using the free MobileNOW! app on smartphones, tablets, and smart watches. Those who are not smart device users can pay for parking by calling MobileNOW! at 936-666-2296.

To use the system, download the free MobileNOW! application and follow the instructions to create an account from the homepage. Once the account is set up, drivers will be able to select the numbered parking space they are in and indicate how much time they would like to purchase. A benefit of MobileNOW! is that the system will send alerts when the time is almost up and more time can be purchased remotely by phone or app. The paid parking will be enforced by the Huntsville Police Department using MobileNOW! software.

There is a \$1.25 per hour parking fee, plus a \$0.25 convenience fee per transaction. There will also be instructions and a QR code to download the application on the signs spaced at every four parking spaces. For more information, contact the City of Huntsville Finance Department at 936-291-5419.

# Are you #ReadyHuntsville?

The City of Huntsville's Public Information Officer and Emergency Management Coordinator want to make sure our residents are ready in the event of an emergency or disaster. Recently they have launched the #ReadyHuntsville initiative to provide you with timely and accurate information on a variety of concerns.

During disaster or emergency, use #ReadyHuntsville to check the City social media channels (find the list and links at [www.huntsvilletx.gov/Social](http://www.huntsvilletx.gov/Social)) and see the most recent information regarding the situation.

To stay prepared, visit [www.huntsvilletx.gov/ReadyHuntsville](http://www.huntsvilletx.gov/ReadyHuntsville), to view tips, resources, emergency supply lists, local area maps, and contact information, as well as ongoing links on specific topics (a new page for infectious disease has gone live and has links for Zika information). Share with us on social media the steps you are taking to become #ReadyHuntsville!

The screenshot shows the City of Huntsville website. The header includes the City of Huntsville logo with the tagline "Home of Sam Houston" and navigation links: Government, Community, Services, Business, and I Want To... A search bar is also present. The main content area is titled "#ReadyHuntsville - Emergency Management & Preparedness" and includes information about the City's Emergency Management Coordinator, John Waldo, and contact details for the Fire Department - Station 1. A sidebar on the left lists various services: Infectious Disease, Stay Notified, Online Payments, Requests & Concerns, Transparency, and Meeting Video.

## #HomeSweetHuntsville



You've seen the signs at City events, the Sam Houston Visitor Center and Statue, and the Huntsville Public Library - they're popping up all over town!

We want to see your pictures to learn what makes Huntsville your home and why you love it. Share with us on social media using #homesweethuntsville.

Request to have a Home Sweet Huntsville sign appear at your next event or learn where the signs will be by emailing [mkaltenbach@huntsvilletx.gov](mailto:mkaltenbach@huntsvilletx.gov).





# *End of Summer Bash at the Sam Houston Statue!*

Friends old and new came out on August 9-11 from 2-4 p.m. to celebrate the end of summer. Bet you know someone in these photos!



Buzzy dropped by to say "Hi!" - The Bearkats athletes got some bright paint applied! - A future police officer got behind the wheel!



Games on the porch, balloons, snowcones, MacGruff the Crime Dog, and more!







**THE HUNTSVILLE PUBLIC LIBRARY  
WILL BE  
CLOSED**

**SEPTEMBER 3<sup>rd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup>, and 5<sup>th</sup>  
FOR LABOR DAY.**

**WE WILL REOPEN TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 6<sup>TH</sup>**

**LearningExpress LIBRARY**

**Your Path to Success**  
Build Academic & Workplace Skills

**Easy-to-Use Online Resources**

- ▶ Improve your basic skills
- ▶ Math, reading, and writing tutorials
- ▶ Learn about in-demand careers
- ▶ Prepare for occupational exams
- ▶ ACT®, SAT®, AP® test preparation
- ▶ Prepare for the GED® test, HiSET®, and TASC
- ▶ ...and much more!

**Tutorials, practice tests, and eBooks**

**FOR FREE ACCESS, GO TO**  
[www.myhuntsvillelibrary.com](http://www.myhuntsvillelibrary.com)

LearningExpress | An EBSCO Company • 800-295-9555 • [www.learningexpress.com](http://www.learningexpress.com) Customer Support: [support@lexipedia.com](mailto:support@lexipedia.com)

*creative*

**10:30 a.m. to noon Tuesday & Thursdays  
September 6—October 6**



Have you ever wanted to write a best-seller? Do you think you could craft a television script as popular as *The Game of Thrones*? Bring your imagination to The Huntsville Public Library in September to Arianne Goddard's Creative Writing Workshop. The 10 classes spread out over four weeks will begin with the basics of how to create strong characters in film, television, and fiction and what makes certain characters strong and stand out. Goddard is a MFA student and will be teaching the class as part of her requirements for a graduate degree. All levels are welcome. Please register online at [www.myhuntsvillelibrary.com](http://www.myhuntsvillelibrary.com) or call Mary Kokot at (936)291-5471. Register early as capacity is limited.



Remember, there are always more things going on than we can include of each issue of *This Week in Huntsville*! Be sure to follow the City's social media pages ([www.huntsvilletx.gov/Social](http://www.huntsvilletx.gov/Social) for list and links) and check websites for:

**Main Street -**

[www.huntsvilletx.gov/MainStreet](http://www.huntsvilletx.gov/MainStreet)

**Huntsville Public Library -**  
[www.MyHuntsvilleLibrary.com](http://www.MyHuntsvilleLibrary.com)

**The Wynne Home -**  
[www.TheWynneHome.com](http://www.TheWynneHome.com)

**Sam Houston Statue & Visitor Center -**  
[www.HuntsvilleTexas.com](http://www.HuntsvilleTexas.com)

**THE WYNNE HOME ARTS CENTER**

*In the Classic Tradition*

PAINTINGS BY NANCY HINES

AUGUST 20-OCTOBER 28

OPENING RECEPTION

SATURDAY AUGUST 20, 2016

4PM-6PM ARTIST REMARKS @ 5PM



**NEW WORKS BY SIMON KIHARA**  
ON EXHIBIT IN FRIENDS OF THE WYNNE SALES GALLERY  
AUGUST 20 - OCTOBER 28, 2016